

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-07 XMB-02 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DCPIERCE/BTK
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

-----251410Z 037346 /47

R 251150Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
INFO CINCLANT
NAVFAC BARBADOS
DOD WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

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CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EAID, PDIP, BB

SUBJECT: BARBadian MINISTER A. W. SYMMONDS CALL ON
MR. LUERS

-
REF: BRIDGETOWN 1081

1. SUMMARY. MINEXTAFF PERMSEC ALGERNON W. SYMMONDS
CALLED ON ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM UERS
TO SAY THE GOB WOULD NOT DECIDE ON FUTURE U.S. USE OF
THE NAVFAC UNTIL IT HAD SETTLED WITH THE US THE ISSUE
OF RETROACTIVE RENT UNDER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT. MR.
LUERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS
WITH RETROACTIVE RENT. SYMMONDS REITERATED GOB REQUESTS
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FOR US BILATERAL AID. HE ASKED ABOUT SECRETARY VANCE'S
POSSIBLE STOPOVER IN BARBADOS, AND EXPRESSED P.M. ADAMS'
INTEREST IN MEETING PRESIDENT CARTER IN SEPTEMBER.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN A CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS ON
MAY 18, BARBadian PERMSEC A. W. SYMMONDS DELIVERED

MESSAGE FROM FORMIN FORDE THAT GOB WOULD NOT DECIDE ON SUITABILITY OF FUTURE US PRESENCE UNTIL IT HAD "WRAPPED UP" THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION FOR US "OCCUPATION" SINCE 1961. HE STRESSED IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO DO OTHERWISE.

3. SYMMONDS REITERATED THE GOB POSITION (REFTEL) THAT RENT "COULD BE PAYABLE" UNDER THE 1961 AGREEMENT AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED A LUMP-SUM PAYMENT OR TURN-BACK OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPED LANDS IN 1961, WHILE BARBADOS GOT NOTHING. HE ASSERTED THE US DID NOT HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM WITH RETROACTIVE RENT SINCE WE HAD "BACKED DOWN" FROM THAT POSITION. HE SAID THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH THE FUTURE RENT OFFER "WAS NOT CONSIDERED AT ALL", AND THAT THE AMOUNT OFFERED WAS "NOWHERE NEAR WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND".

4. MR. LUERS POINTED OUT THAT WE DID IN FACT HAVE STATUTORY PROBLEMS WITH RETROACTIVE RENT PAYMENT, SINCE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR IT. HE SAID WE WOULD ALSO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE PRECEDENT THIS MIGHT CREATE, AND SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE FACILITY WAS ALL THAT IMPORTANT TO DOD. SYMMONDS RESPONDED THAT HIS "POLITICAL MASTERS" DID NOT BELIEVE WE HAD TOLD THEM ALL WE ARE DOING AT THE FACILITY, AND THAT IT MUST BE RATHER IMPORTANT.

5. BILATERAL AID. SYMMONDS SAID THE GOB UNDERSTOOD USG RELUCTANCE TO TIE AID TO BASES, AND NOTED INCREASED US INTEREST IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE SAID THAT

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THE GOB WAS INTERESTED IN BARBADOS FIRST, NOT IN ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS, AND NOT IN MONEY FUNNELED THROUGH THE CDB OR THE IADB. HE SAID JAMAICA HAD GOTTEN ITSELF INTO TROUBLE THROUGH ITS OWN POLITICAL DECISIONS, AND NOW THE US IS MOVING TO GIVE IT ASSISTANCE. HE SAID BARBADOS WANTED HELP WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE VERY SERIOUS POLITICAL/SOCIAL CHANGES NOW TROUBLING JAMAICA.

6. SECRETARY VANCE STOPOVER IN BARBADOS. SYMMONDS ASKED ABOUT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PLANS TO STOP OVER IN BARBADOS AND SUGGESTED THAT ADAMS AND FORDE WOULD BE WILLING TO COME HOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JUNE 15 END OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IN LONDON. MR. LUERS REPLIED THAT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WAS STILL UNCERTAIN, BUT THAT WE APPRECIATED THE OFFER AND WOULD GET BACK TO THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. CARTER/FORDE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. SYMMONDS SAID

HE HOPED ADAMS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER IN LATE SEPTEMBER DURING A TRIP TO WASHINGTON FOR AN IMF MEETING. MR. LUERS SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR JACKMAN ON MAY 16 THAT HE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MEETING, AND HE INDICATED ARA WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH A

REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH SPECIFIC DATES. CHARGE ORLANDO MARVILLE CONFIRMED THE DATES AS SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 3, WITH A PREFERENCE FOR EITHER SEPTEMBER 23 OR OCTOBER 3, SINCE THE IMF MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 26-30. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMPENSATION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE120403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCPIERCE/BTK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770186-1025
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770518/aaaaapsc.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c748498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRIDGETOWN 1081
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2370596
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARBadian MINISTER A. W. SYMMONDS CALL ON MR. LUERS -
TAGS: MARR, EAID, PDIP, BB, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (SYMMONDS, ALGERNON W), (LUERS, WILLIAM), (ADAMS, J M G)
To: BRIDGETOWN
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c748498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009